

Measures to Solve Bodo Problem

2613. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the specific measure taken to solve the Bodo problem so far; and

(b) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) and (b). three Member Experts' committee has been constituted to determine the areas of Bodos and other plains Tribals and make recommendations as to the autonomy, legislative, administrative and financial powers, that could be given to them. This Committee is expected to submit its report by 31st March, 1992.

[Translation]

Allocation of kerosene to Gujarat

2614. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been made by the Government of Gujarat to increase the quota of kerosene; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). Some requests had been received. Requests, whenever received, are considered and decisions taken keeping in view various factors, including product availability etc.

[English]

Gas Flaring Reduction Projects

2616. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE:
SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to commission gas flaring reduction projects at all gas flaring wells;

(b) if so, the time by which the gas flaring reduction projects would be commissioned and the targets of zero level would be achieved; and

(c) to what extent the indigeneous demand of gas would be met as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). Projects for reducing the flaring of gas have been undertaken in the Western offshore region, in Gujarat and in Assam. Flaring is expected to be reduced to minimum levels by 1995. Approximately 11 million cubic metres of gas is being flared at present.

National Research Centre for Onion and Garlic at Nasik

2617. DR. VASANT PAWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the reasons for delay in opening National Research Centre for Onion and Garlic at Nasik in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): Sir, The land for the proposed Centre has not yet been handed over by the Government of Maharashtra.

[Translation]

Use of Nuclear Energy in Agriculture

2618. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether nuclear energy is being widely used in the field of agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress made so far in this regard;

(d) the Research Units involved in the country for harnessing nuclear energy for agriculture; and

(e) the steps taken to promote the use of nuclear energy in the field of agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) to (c). Sir, Nuclear energy is being used for creating genetic variability in crops and for studying nutrient transformation as well as nutrient and water movement in soil. Several mutants including commercial cultivators have been developed in important crops such as wheat, rice, cotton, sugarcane and pulses. In Animal Sciences it is being used for radio-immuno assays, tracers for minerals and for vaccine production.

(d) and (e). The ICAR institutes and State Agricultural Universities are involved in harnessing nuclear energy for agriculture. They are collaborating with national and international agencies for promoting use of nuclear energy in the field of agriculture.

[English]

Rape of Minors in Delhi

2619. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether rape of minors is fast becoming a trend in Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents which occurred in Delhi during 1991 and 1992 so far; and

(c) the steps taken being taken to check the menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (c). The Delhi Police have

reported that number of cases of rape of minors from 1st January, 1991 to 15th February, 1992 is 131.

Amongst the steps taken are increased surveillance over the activities of bad characters, increased vigilance and intensive patrolling so that police presence and its effects are felt and serve as deterrent.

[Translation]

Austerity Measures in Indian Embassies

2620. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to take austerity measures in Indian Embassies/High Commissions/Consulates abroad; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b). The Ministry of External Affairs have adopted austerity measures for Indian Missions and Posts abroad in line with the economy measures adopted by the Government of India. These involve general budgetary restrictions specific cuts in the allocation for capital expenditure and travel, and the exercise of the maximum possible economy in all expenditure.

[English]

Recruitment of Blinds in Government Service

2621. SHRI GANGADHARA SANIPALLI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of blind persons in the country State-wise; and

(b) the number of blind persons recruited in the various Central Government offices during the last three years?